(e) if so, the details thereof.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) The Government is aware of the pollution caused by effluents released by the H-Acid manufacturing units in Bichhri.

(b) and (c) A number of steps are being taken to oontrol the pollution. These include:

(i) The two units manufacturing H-Acid have been closed down.

(ii) The Central Government has directed the Rajasthan State Pollution Control Board to take effective measures for the safe removal and disposal of sludge generated in the manufacture of H-Acid.

(iii) The Supreme Court has directed the units to undertake the work of transporting and storting the sludge in safe places before the advent of monsoon and to bear the costs for the same. The work is being carried out under the supervision of the Rajasthan Pollution Control Board.

(d) and (e) The State Government has been directed by the Supreme Court to collect data on the nature and extent of environmental damage to estimate the amount of compensation that is required to be paid to the affected villages

Health hazards of Benzene

1394. SHRI SHAMIM HASHMI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Benzene is widely used in Synthesis of various chemicals compounds, drugs, inks, paints, rubber industry, fruits, fish, eggs, daily production etc., and as octane booster in gasoline;

(b) whether it is found in high concentration in urban areas with heavy truck and auto traffic; and

(c) if so, the steps taken to reduce the health hazards from Benzene?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) Benzene is widely used as a solvent and raw material for the synthesis of a wide veriety of chemical compounds. Benzene is not used as an octane booster in petrol.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Benzene is listed at S. No. 32 in Part II of Schedule I of the Rules on Manufacture, Storage and Import of Hazardous Chemicals notified on 27th November, 1989 under the Environment (Protection.) Act, 1936. The rules regulate the handling of Benzene. An occupier controlling an industrial activity handling Benzene has to take steps to prevent major accidents and provide for the safety of the workers; collect, develop and disseminate information and give information to the concerned authority about imports.

1395. [*Transferred to the 30th May, 1990*]

Encouragement of Sanskrit

1396. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state.

(a) what steps are being taken to encourage Sanskrit;

(b) whether it is a fact that in some parts of the country Sanskrit Schools and Collages have been closed down for want of funds; and

(c) if so, what steps are taken to meet the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA): (a) For encouraging the study of Sanskrit in the country, following schemes/programmes have been undertaken:—

(i) Financial grants to Voluntary Organisations working in the field of Sanskrit.